COMMANDERS DIGEST

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RECEIVED DOCUMENTS

Army Strength Build-Up Cited in 'Posture' Testimony

The U. S. Army has consistently defeated enemy forces in Vietnam due to continuing efforts worldwide, Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor told congressional committee members during his annual "posture" testimony.

Active Strength Up 45%

Active Army strength was increased approximately 45 percent since the summer of 1965 to support Vietnam operations. There are currently six and one-third division equivalents in South Vietnam.

Army's total procurement program has been expanded from a FY65 annual level of about $6 billion to an estimated $11 billion in FY67.

"At the same time, we have broadened and increased the industrial base supporting our increased strength and our combat consumption in Vietnam," the secretary said.

Secretary Resor said the U. S. Army in Vietnam "is the best trained, best equipped Army that the United States has ever sent into combat. It is proving in battle our new concept of air mobility."

Concerning other forces, he said that officers and enlisted were drawn down from Seventh Army in Europe and Eighth Army in Korea during the early build-up to help expand the training base. "As the output from our training and school systems has increased, we have replaced these personnel."

Both Armies are at approximately their year-ago authorized levels "and by June 30, 1967, we will have restored most of their personnel skills," the secretary added.

Selected Reserve Force Created

The 150,000-man Selected Reserve Force was created to meet contingencies that might arise during the time continental strategic forces were drawn down by buildup demands, he said.

This force was given priority in personnel and equipment and received intensive training.

Secretary Resor said plans are to continue the SRF at its present strength and maintain its units' readiness at current levels.

MIG KILLER DECORATED—Maj. Paul J. Gilmore (right), credited with shooting down the first MIG-21 over North Vietnam in April 1966, is presented with the Silver Star Medal by Maj. Gen. Thomas K. McGehee, commander, 10th Air Force, at Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Mont. Maj. Gilmore also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and the first through the ninth Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

Armed Forces Lead List Of Federal Money-Savers

The Air Force heads a list of eight agencies in the federal government that have saved a million dollars or more during Fiscal Year 1966.

Termed the "Million Dollar Benefit Group," the Air Force, Army and Navy led the other agencies.

Air Force dollar benefits of $57.4 million in savings were achieved from 23,237 adopted suggestions.

Army savings totaled $25 million. The Navy recorded $20.8 million.

Others in the group are Post Office, $8.2 million; Defense Supply Agency, $2.7 million; NASA $2.4 million; Treasury, $1.5 million; and Agriculture, $1.3 million.

Air Force Logistics Command led the Air Force with the highest participation rate and Air University had the highest adoption rate of suggestions. Strategic Air Command personnel had the highest number of suggestions with 27,851, of which 32.5 percent were adopted.

Washington Memos

INCREASED EMPHASIS ON hand grenade training at all Army training facilities has been announced by Headquarters, U.S. Continental Army Command at Ft. Monroe, Va. Additional training was implemented to meet training requirements at Continental Army Command Basic Training Centers and Advanced Individual Training, Infantry Centers, after staff visits to Vietnam proved warfare there lends itself to extensive use of hand grenades.

VETERAN MARINE CORPS aviator, Maj. Gen. William G. Thrash, has assumed command of Marine Corps Air Bases, Western Area, and Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif. Gen. Thrash relieved Maj. Gen. Frank C. Tharin, who will become Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Gen. Thrash came to El Toro from his post as Legislative Assistant to Marine Corps Commandant.

TWELVE THOUSAND cadets in Air Force ROTC are receiving subsistence pay on monthly basis for first time in program's history. New plan became effective in January and provides cadets with an AFROTC scholorship with $50 per month. Non-scholarship cadets get $40. Affected by change are cadets participating in last two years of AFROTC's four-year curriculum.

NAVY SHIPS SYSTEMS Command and Coast Guard, cooperating with Smithsonian Institution, have positively identified a vessel lying at bottom of Mobile Bay as Civil War ironclad Tecumseh. Armored ship, which was sunk in 1864 when struck by a torpedo during Battle of Mobile Bay, carries two 15-inch guns and lies upside down in 40 feet of water. Efforts to raise the vessel are under consideration by Smithsonian officials.

AT CHANGE OF COMMAND ceremonies at Lai Khe, RVN, Maj. Gen. John H. Hay Jr., assumed command of 1st Infantry Division. Gen. Hay took command from Maj. Gen. William E. DePuy, who is returning to U.S. for a post with Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Hay arrived from Hawaii where he served as 11th Infantry Brigade Commander.

NAVY HAS CHARTERED deep-diving research submarine Star III from Electric Boat division of General Dynamics to explore and photograph a depression in ocean floor nearly 2,000 feet beneath surface some 45 miles southeast of Key West, Fla. Described as much like a sink hole, the depression also will be visually observed from submarine and bottom samples taken. Operations are to last six weeks and are designed to develop underwater photo-mapping techniques under technical direction of U.S. Navy Oceanographic Office.

NUCLEAR ROCKET REACTOR of the "Phoebus" family has been tested at the AEC's Los Alamos, N.M., facility. Called the Phoebus 1B, the reactor was tested in part of the continuing Rover program to develop a nuclear rocket capable of extensive space exploration. Reactor's power level goal was boosted from 1,100 to 1,500 megawatts, comparable to a 55,000 to 75,000 thrust-pound increase.

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command of St. Louis has announced award of a $2.9 million contract to Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division, United Aircraft Corp., East Hartford, Conn. Contract provides for production of free turbine assemblies required in maintenance of CH-54A (Skycrane) aircraft.

AIR FORCE IS using civilian auxiliary chaplains to conduct weekly religious services for Air Defense Command personnel at isolated radar sites and dispersed operating bases. Auxiliary chaplains, civilian clergymen serving in communities adjacent to isolated sites, are employed part-time in weekly worship sessions, religious instructions and emergency religious ministrations.

ONE THOUSANDTH FOREIGN student has graduated from Armed Forces' Industrial College's worldwide correspondence course in National Security Management. Certificate of completion will be presented to Maj. Salvador Escandell-Cortes, Army Regimiento Mixto Ingenieros No. 3, Valencia, Spain, through defense attache at American Embassy in Spain.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and Space Administration is continuing an investigation of the Apollo spacecraft fire that claimed the lives of three astronauts. In an official second report, NASA's Deputy Administrator Robert O. Seamans Jr. said "as of this time, there has been no determination as to the source of the ignition itself."

THE 1967 EDITION of Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents includes provisions made during the last session of the 89th Congress. Booklet also contains a list of regional offices where veterans should apply for benefits. The booklet is available for 20 cents from the U.S. Government printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS appointed four new members to the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science and announced elevation of Dr. Bryce L. Crawford Jr., to committee chairman. New members are Dr. James Shannan, Dr. Harry H. Hess, Dr. Max S. Peters and Dr. John T. Edsall.

ACCELERATED TEST PROGRAM to evaluate Army's newest series of amphibious lighters has been established by Army Test and Evaluation Command, Ft. Story, Va. Undergoing tests are LARC V, LARC XV and LARC LX.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Johnson Proposes Truth-In-Lending Legislation

President Johnson has recommended "Truth-in-Lending" legislation to Congress that would assist the military consumer and civilian lender in credit transactions.

"I recommend the Truth-in-Lending Act of 1967," the President said in his message, "to assure that, when the consumer shops for credit, he will be presented with a price tag that will tell him the percentage rate per year that is being charged on his borrowing."

The President noted that as a matter of fair play to the consumer, the cost of credit should be disclosed fully, simply and clearly.

President Johnson said important advances can be made by incorporating the wisdom of past discussions on how the costs of credit can best be expressed.

As a result of the discussion, President Johnson recommended legislation to assure:

- Full and accurate information to the borrower;
- Simple and routine calculations for the lender.

He said such legislation is urgently needed to close an important gap in consumer information; and protect legitimate lenders against competitors who misrepresent credit costs.

The Truth-in-Lending Act of 1967 would strengthen the efficiency of our credit markets, the President explained, "without restraining them."

President Johnson pointed out that the act would allow the cost of credit to be freely determined by informed borrowers and responsible lenders.

"The consumer has the right to know the cost of this key item in his budget," the President noted, "just as much as the price of any other commodity he buys."

Skin Diver 'Wet Suit' May Adapt For Cold Weather Sea Survival

The Naval Aerospace Crew Equipment Laboratory has initiated a program to adapt the skin diver's wet suit for certain cold weather sea survival situations.

The suit is one-piece and consists of cellular neoprene with a neoprene skin surface and nylon lining.

An engineering problem of providing ventilation to the wet suit configuration has been solved. Controlled orifice ventilation channeling, coupled with the strategic location of carefully selected spacer materials, is the remedy.

Officials at the laboratory, under the Naval Air Engineering Center, Philadelphia, Pa., said the radius of operations of carrier based aircraft often places Navy pilots in radically opposite environmental conditions. This being the case, it is necessary to provide ventilation for any impermeable suit assembly worn.

Nuclear Plant Class Opens At Army's Engineer Center

A year-long course in nuclear power plant operation is underway at Army Engineer Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Including nuclear power theory, power plant operation, and basic maintenance principles and procedures, the course is being offered to personnel of the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Following a week-long orientation, students enter the 16-week academic phase of nuclear power plant theory which includes the review and learning of algebra, trigonometry, modern physics and health physics. The class also receives comprehensive instruction in basic electrical, mechanical and nuclear engineering during the initial 16 weeks.

The second phase, which lasts 19 weeks, is spent applying theory to actual practice operations of the SM-1, Ft. Belvoir's operating nuclear plant.

In the final phase of the course, students are gradually moved toward the field most closely associated with their demonstrated aptitudes. Students can specialize in one of four maintenance areas—mechanical, instrument, electrical, or process control.

Army Civilian Recruitment Program Termed Excellent

An annual evaluation gives Army an excellent rating in recruiting new civilian employees to meet the Southeast Asia build-up while maintaining a high level of effectiveness.

This evaluation is based on Civil Service Commission inspections, Army survey findings, quarterly field program reports and special studies and surveys.

Army assigned the highest priority to civilian recruitment last year, hiring 139,000 to almost double the number hired in 1965. The number of local national employees in Vietnam almost tripled, reaching 30,000 by year's end.

Recruitment under the Civilianization Program got underway last March, and by year's end 95 percent of the 27,000 positions scheduled for conversion were filled.

Army met its high-grade and average-grade ceilings for the year and reduced the average grade of its employees for the first time since 1951.

Several important program developments during the year point the way to future changes and improvements. Establishment of the centralized review of high-grade positions and of manpower use placed strong emphasis on economy and productivity. Approval of a DOD career executive institute, proposed by Army to train top-level Defense managers, is viewed as a significant advance in executive training.

Defense Statistics Reveal Rotary, Fixed-Wing Losses Are Offset By Deliveries

Defense Department statistics on fixed and rotary wing aircraft losses for FY66 and FY67 reveal that deliveries of both aircraft categories during the same period exceeds the losses.

Total fixed wing losses world-wide and for all causes during this time period was set at 2,273 with deliveries set at 3,207.

Total service-wide helicopter losses were 987 versus 4,357 deliveries.

During the FY66-67 period, 1,411 fixed-wing aircraft and 672 helicopters were lost by all services in Southeast Asia.

Defense Secretary McNamara said these figures have been reported to Congress and that he had released the statistics to the public to counter claims that aircraft deliveries were inadequate to offset our losses.

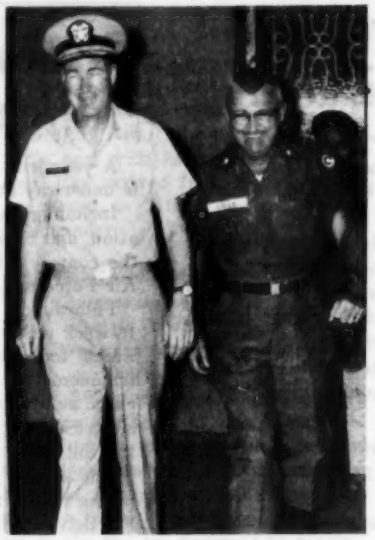
Reserve Status Physicians Face Possible Active Duty

Defense Department has authorized the services to order active duty tours up to 24 months for about 100 draft age physicians holding Reserve commissions.

This authorization was given by Congress in 1957. The law specifies that those under 35 years of age may be ordered to active duty for as much as two years.

The Army, Navy and Air Force plan to call up those without any prior active duty service. Those doctors who have served any time on active duty for training status will have the 24-month tour reduced by an amount equal to their training time.

DOD's authorization applies to young physicians not assigned to organized Reserve units. Officials say these individual calls will not lessen the overall Reserve effectiveness, and will carry out Congressional intent of providing equitable treatment for all draft age physicians.



COMMAND BRIEFING—RAdm. L. V. McDonald, Military Sea Transport Service (Far East) commander (left), leaves the Army's 1st Logistical Command Headquarters at Saigon after a briefing by Brig. Gen. Shelton E. Lollis, acting LOG commander. Adm. McDonald and Gen. Lollis discussed transportation achievements and problems during the brief visit.

Benefits Information Program Set Up for Vietnam Veterans

A cooperative Defense Department-Veterans Administration program is providing servicemen about to leave Vietnam for discharge with the latest information on veteran benefits.

The Veterans Administration has sent a two-man team of VA contact representatives to talk with service personnel departing for the United States from Long Binh, a major embarkation point for Army personnel.

Department of Defense and Veterans Administration officials are considering expanding the program to other departure bases in Vietnam.

The pilot project was initiated as part of the program outlined by President Johnson, who has asked government agencies to do everything possible to smooth and speed the transition from military service to civilian life for returning Vietnam servicemen.

Air Force Selects Top Enlisted Man

The Air Force has named Chief Master Sergeant Paul W. Airey to its top enlisted position, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

CMSgt. Airey has been serving as First Sergeant with Air Defense Command's 4756th Civil Engineering Squadron at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Selection was made by Gen. John P. McConnell, Air Force Chief of Staff.

CMSgt. Airey will be officially sworn in at a Pentagon ceremony scheduled for April 3.

He is a 24-year veteran and served in WWII and the Korean conflict.

AF Studies Problems Of Space Decompression

Air Force experiments in rapid decompression have revealed that chimpanzees can survive a possible spacecraft disaster in a near vacuum at 150,000 feet for three and a half minutes without noticeable residual effects. Total decompression recovery time takes four hours.

Conducted by the 657th Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Holloman AFB, N.M., the tests have been underway since July 1964. Eighteen experiments with chimpanzees have been conducted to provide the Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with some idea of the time available to save a crewman's life and prevent brain damage should a spacecraft be damaged in flight or a space suit suddenly lose pressure.

According to officials of the Air Force Systems Command's Aerospace Medical Division, no residual effects were noted in the experiments, and the chimpanzees were able to perform within the baseline limits of work. In addition, there have been no long-lasting changes in the animals' performance under the carefully controlled tests.

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